

Message Text

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ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 PM-07 NSC-10 SPC-03 SS-15 RSC-01

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FM AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4843

INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L KINSHASA 8006

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, CG, BE

SUBJECT: BELGIAN PRIME MINISTER'S VISIT TO ZAIRE

REF: BRUSSELS 5147; KINSHASA 7901

1. WE CAN CONFIRM THAT PRIME MINISTER LEBURTON'S VISIT TO ZAIRE HAS CAUSED SOME DISSENSION WITHIN GOB. WHEN PROVIDING EMBASSY WITH RUNDOWN ON RESULTS LEBURTON'S TRIP (KINSHASA 7901), BELGIAN CHARGE CHAEN MENTIONED THAT HE WAS BEING SUMMONED BACK TO BRUSSELS TO BRIEF FOREIGN MINISTRY ON WHAT HAD TRANSPIRED DURING PROMIN'S VISIT. CAHEN, WHO IS A SOCIALIST, COMMENTED THAT THIS PUT HIM IN AN AWKWARD SITUATION.

2. SOME MEMBERS OF THE DIPLOMATIC CORPS HAVE REMARKED THAT AMB VANDEN BLOOCK WAS NOT ASKED TO INTERRUPT HIS VACATION IN EUROPE TO BE PRESENT DURING PRIMIN'S STAY HERE.

3. FYI: CAHEN IN CONFIDENCE ALSO SAID MOBUTU HAD PRESSED LEBURTON FOR COMMITMENT TO NAME CAHEN AS BELGIAN AMBASSADOR WHEN VANDEN BLOOCK LEAVES LATER IN THE YEAR. LEBURTON REPORTED REPLIED "NO PROBLEM". CAHEN COMMENTED TO US THAT THERE WOULD BE PROBLEMS WITH
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THE FOREIGN MINISTRY, SOME OF WHOSE MEMBERS HAD OPPOSED

HIS RANK OF MINISTER IN HIS PRESENT JOB AS DCM ON THE
GROUNDS THAT HE WAS TOO JUNIOR FOR MINISTERIAL RANK
MUCH LESS AMBASSADOR TO ZAIRE. END FYI.

4. APPARENTLY, LEBURTON BROUGHT WITH HIM TO ZAIRE ONLY
ONE MEMBER OF THIS STAFF AND HE AND CAHEN SAT IN WITH
THE PRIME MINISTER FOR THE BELGIAN SIDE.
VANCE

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